

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-11 SCA-01 INSE-00 L-03 H-03

SAM-01 IO-14 ACDA-19 SIG-04 FSI-01 SAJ-01 PRS-01 SY-10

PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /148 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0444

INFO USMISSION BERLIN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 02462

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, GE, US, WB

SUBJECT: OBJECTIONABLE STAMP IN GDR PASSPORTS

REF: BERLIN 282

1. AT URGENTLY CALLED TRIPARTITE MEETING FEB 14 FOR DISCUSSION NEW GDR PASSPORT STAMP READING "VALID FOR ALL STATES AND THE INDEPENDENT POLITICAL ENTITY WEST BERLIN" (REFTEL), UK REP (CULLIMORE) SAID ISSUE HAS NOW ACQUIRED URGENCY FOR UK SINCE GDR PASSPORT SO STAMPED HAS BEEN SUBMITTED FOR TRAVEL TO UK ON FEB 17. THE UK REP SAID FCO HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO GET ALLIED VIEWS ON THREE OPTIONS LISTED BELOW, NOTING HIS AUTHORITIES IN LONDON BELIEVED EITHER (B) OR (C) ACCEPTABLE. FCO PROPOSALS ARE:

BTA) ESSENTIALLY USBER'S REFTEL RECOMMENDATION TO REFUSE TO VISA PASSPORTS WITH THE OBJECTIONABLE STAMP;
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(B) TO ISSUE VISAS IN SUCH PASSPORTS, BUT COUNTER WITH DISCLAIMER STAMP OF OUR OWN WHICH WOULD READ "ISSUANCE OF THIS VISA IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE STATUS OF BERLIN";

(C) THAT UK AND FRENCH EMBASSIES MAKE INFORMAL DEMARCHE TO GDR MFA POINTING OUT THE DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY THE NEW STAMP, NOTING THAT PREVIOUS GDR PASSPORTS HAD NOT BORNE IT, AND HOPING IT CAN BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY. IF THIS APPROACH FOLLOWS FN FCO ENVISIONS OPTION (B) AS FURTHER IF NEEDED STEP.

CULLIMORE SAID OPTION (A) UNACCEPTABLE FOR FCO BECAUSE BRITISH IMMIGRATION RULES PRECLUDE REFUSAL OF VISAS SOLELY ON GROUNDS OF OBJECTIONABLE WORDING IN PASSPORTS.

2. THE FRENCH REP (PAYE) SAID REPORTS FROM HIS EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN INDICATED THE NEW STAMP WAS A TEST (SUPPORTING USBER'S TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT REFTEL). ON BASIS OF THIS, PAYE SAID FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAUVAGNARGUES HAD SENT TELEGRAM TO PARIS FEB 13 STRONGLY SUPPORTING FIRM LINE PER (A) ABOVE. PAYE SAID HE PERSONALLY FELT JOINT DEMARCHE IN EAST BERLIN (PER OPTION C) WOULD NOT BE BEST WAY OF APPROACHING PROBLEM, INASMUCH AS ALLIES LIKELY TO BECOME INVOLVED IN EXTENDED AND POSSIBLY COUNTERPRODUCTIVE LEGAL DISCUSSION WITH GDR. PAYE SAW CHOICE ESSENTIALLY BETWEEN FCO OPTIONS (A) AND (B).

3. COMMENT: IN TRIPARTITE MEETING WE ADVOCATED (AND CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THE BEST ALLIED COURSE WOULD BE) REFUSAL OF VISAS IN PASSPORTS WITH OBJECTIONABLE STAMP. WE BELIEVE GDR ENDORSEMENT IS INDEED A TEST AND, SINCE WE KNOW OF ONLY FOUR PASSPORTS WHICH CONTAIN IT, THINK IT IS A VERY CAUTIOUS ONE WHICH WOULD LIKELY BE WITHDRAWN *PON MEETING FIRM ALLIED REJECTIONS. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS.
HILLENBRAND

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